



State Senator **NANCY CASSIS** *WORKING FOR YOU*

Legislation helping Veterans passes Senate

Senate Bill 515 amends the state income tax act to allow for the continuation of a check off for contributions to the military relief fund. The Military Family Relief Fund provides grants to qualifying families of military members in either the Michigan National Guard or Reserves who are called to active duty as a result of the national response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

This legislation brings the military relief fund check off up to date with changes that were made to the unified check off program passed earlier this year. Senate Bill 515 permanently extends the income tax check off for contributions to the military relief fund. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

Senate acts to help new parents improve parenting skill

The Michigan Senate recently passed a resolution that strongly encourages the U.S. Congress to enact the Education Begins at Home Act. The measure would maintain programs designed to help improve parenting skills and promote healthy child development.

The programs provide voluntary coaching to parents of children up to five years old in home settings. Common programs include the Nurse Family Partnership, Parent-Child Home and Parents as Teachers.

The Parents as Teachers program offers services to residents throughout Michigan to help provide the information, support and encouragement that parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Programs aimed at helping new parents develop better parenting skills are critical because parents are their child's first teachers.

Each year, approximately 2.7 million children are abused or neglected in the United States. During 2005 in Michigan alone, 147,628 abuse and neglect investigations were conducted. In one-third of the confirmed cases, the victims were three years old or younger.

Contact Information:

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

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